4th March 1925]

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" As soon as judicial figures are available enabling us to see what the actual revenue for the current year is."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" All that I request is that instead of ' as soon as possible ' it may be expedited ' as early as possible '."

Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—" May I ask the Government whether they recognize the necessity for publishing these figures in the near future ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The answer to that will depend very much upon the result of the investigation."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I draw the attention of the Government to the various statements made by them that the anticipated increase under the head of court fees seems not to have been as great as it ought to have been ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The question divides itself into two. There are a certain class of suits such as declaratory suits in which as a matter of policy Government will not go back on the enhancement. So far as certain other classes of suits are concerned, the question of reduction will depend, for instance, in the case of money suits, upon an examination of the figures and whether the institution of suits has been affected and in this class of cases the Government will consider the matter seriously."

Irrigation.

Irrigation tank in Maluvambattu, Tiruvannamalai taluk.

* 305 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Maluvambattu, a hamlet of Kil Vanakkambadi village in Tiruvannamalai taluk, North Arcot district, was uninhabited until eight years back ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that some twenty families of Muhammadans and Hindus settled there some eight years back and had the waste lands assigned for cultivation ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that there is an irrigation tank with broken bund within the said village limits ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the tank is included within the reserved forest ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that one Asankhan and other ryots of the village petitioned the District Collector, the Board of Revenue and the hon. the Revenue Member regarding the repair of the said irrigation tank ;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that the Forest department have no objection to repair the tank and the use of its water for irrigation purposes ;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that more than 30 acres are cultivated ' wet ' under the tank even at present, the cultivation at present being with the help of small wells ;

(*h*) whether it is a fact that the Rathapuram tank is supplied with water from Aliar river through a feeder-channel ;

(*i*) whether any orders have been passed regarding the repair of this tank or allowing the ryots to have the repair done by themselves and if so, whether the Government will be pleased to have the order placed on the table of this House ; and

(*j*) if no orders have been passed, whether he will be pleased to call for a report and pass early orders?

A.—The Government have no information but will call for it.

11-30 a.m. Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I ask the hon. the Law Member whether any information has since been received? I was told that some correspondence passed when I visited the neighbourhood recently."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I have not got any papers now on the subject, which will disclose the result of the investigation."

The Mettur Project.

* 306 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to say—

(*a*) whether final orders have been passed by the Secretary of State regarding the Mettur project ;

(*b*) whether the Government have any idea of spending any money on acquisition of lands in 1924–25 and 1925–26 and if so, how much ;

(*c*) in view of the damages caused by floods, whether the Government have any objection to arrange for the acquisition of all lands and buildings as early as possible, to pay the prices to the owners and give them some time to build new houses before handing over possession to Government ; and

(*d*) whether the Government have any idea of publishing the whole scheme about the acquisition of the lands and buildings so that people concerned may know the exact position ?

A.—(*a*) Orders are awaited.

(*b*) Rupees 1·33 lakhs have been proposed in the Budget for 1925–26.

(*c*) Acquisition cannot be effected until the sanction of the Secretary of State is received.

(*d*) Preliminary notification will be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette.*

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I know why the Government cannot provide for a sum of five lakhs in view of the fact that, as we have already represented, lands have been devastated by floods ? "

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" A sum of 4·71 lakhs is the provision in the next year's budget for this purpose. The acquisition of lands depends largely on convenience."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHARAJU :—" May I have the details as to how this sum of 4·71 lakhs is going to be spent ?"

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" I would refer to the written answer to this question."